

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A message reception device comprising:

a portable message reception means for receiving a message through a network;

message filter means for screening messages for a valid range including a valid geographic position range, from said received messages, to identify a message with a valid geographic position range;

positioning means for measuring a current geographic position of the message reception means;

message delivery assessment means for repeatedly, based on a standby period of time interval, assessing whether the current geographic position is within the geographic position range of the identified message so that after each time interval, the assessment means assesses whether the current geographic position is within the geographic position range in order to deliver the identified message at a time when the device is within the geographic position range; and

message delivery means for delivering the identified message, received by said message reception means or selected by

said message delivery assessment means, to a user,

wherein, upon the current geographic position being determined to be within the geographic position range, the identified message is delivered to the user.

2. (currently amended) A message reception device as set forth in claim 1,

further comprising message storage means for storing the identified message, and

wherein the valid geographic position range comprises a fixed geographic position and a distance from the fixed geographic position and the received message is an e-mail.

3. (previously presented) A message reception device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the screening of the messages for a valid range by said message filter means is targeted to messages satisfying a predetermined condition.

4. (previously presented) A message reception device as set forth in claim 3, wherein the predetermined condition, for screening the messages for a valid range by said message filter means, is a sender of the message with a valid range, the valid range being a message sender who is expected and who is not unwanted by the user.

5. (currently amended) A message reception device as set forth in claim 2, wherein,

said message storage means comprises clock means, said clock means sets a time limit of validity to the identified message, said clock means stores the time limit of validity, and said clock means deletes the identified message when the time limit of validity has been exceeded,

after each time interval, the assessment means assesses whether the current geographic position is within the geographic position range in order to deliver the identified message at a time before the time limit of validity is exceeded, when the device is assessed to be within the geographic position range, and

after the time limit of validity, the assessment means discontinues assesses whether the current geographic position is within the geographic position range in order to deliver the identified message.

6. (previously presented) A message reception device as set forth in claim 5, wherein the time limit of validity is after a given time period from the time when the identified message is stored.

7. (previously presented) A message reception device as set forth in claim 5, wherein the time limit of validity is indicated in a validity information found within the identified message.

8. (previously presented) A message reception device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the assessment within the valid geographic position range by said message delivery assessment means is performed to determine whether the measured current geographic position is within a predetermined radius centered on a center position of the valid geographic position range and the current geographic position is determined by a Global Positioning System.

9. (previously presented) A message reception device as set forth in claim 2, wherein, when receiving the identified message, said message filter means i) delivers the message by said message delivery means to the user, and ii) stores, in said message storage means, the identified message with a valid range if a content of the valid range is a content specified by the user.

10. (previously presented) A message reception device as set forth in claim 1, wherein

said message delivery means

i) assesses whether a pointer information, pointing to external information, is included in the identified message,

ii) upon determining the identified message includes the pointer information, obtains the information, pointed to by the pointer information, from the network, and

iii) delivers the obtained information to the user.

11. (original) A message reception device as set forth in claim 1, wherein

said message delivery means is a device separated from a main body of the message reception device.

12. (currently amended) A message reception method comprising the steps of:

at a portable e-mail reception device, receiving messages through a network;

repeatedly screening the received messages, on a regular time basis, to identify messages with a valid range including a valid geographic position range and storing the identified messages including the corresponding valid geographic position ranges;

measuring a current geographic position of the portable reception device;

selecting, from the stored identified messages, a message with a valid geographic position range for which the measured current geographic position is within the valid geographic position range; and

delivering the selected message to a user,

wherein, at a first time when the current geographic position is determined to be outside the stored valid geographic

position ranges, no stored message is delivered, and

at a later second time upon the current geographic position being determined to be within one of the stored valid geographic position ranges, the corresponding one of the stored messages is delivered to the user.

13. (previously presented) A message reception method as set forth in claim 12, wherein the screening of the messages with a valid range is targeted to messages satisfying a predetermined condition.

14. (previously presented) A message reception method as set forth in claim 13, wherein the predetermined condition for screening is a sender of the message being included in a valid sender range.

15. (previously presented) A message reception method as set forth in claim 12, wherein the message with a valid range is stored by setting a time limit of validity to the message with a valid range, and the message with a valid range whose time limit of validity has been exceeded is deleted.

16. (previously presented) A message reception method as set forth in claim 15, wherein the time limit of validity of the message with a valid range is after a given time period from the time when the message with a valid range is stored.

17. (previously presented) A message reception method as set forth in claim 16, wherein the time limit of validity of the message with a valid range is the time limit indicated in a limit of validity information included within the message with a valid range.

18. (previously presented) A message reception method as set forth in claim 12, wherein the assessment within the valid range is made whether the measured current geographic position is within a predetermined radius centered on a center position of the valid geographic position range.

19. (previously presented) A message reception method as set forth in claim 12, wherein the message received from said network is delivered to a user when the message is received, and the message is stored if the message includes a content within a valid range specified by the user.

20. (previously presented) A message reception method as set forth in claim 12, wherein delivery of the message with a valid range to a user is performed by obtaining from the network external information pointed to by a pointer information when the pointer information is included in the message with a valid range, and delivering the obtained information to the user.

21. (currently amended) A program for receiving

messages which controls a computer to perform message reception processing, comprising the functions of:

at a portable reception device, a function of receiving a message through a network;

a function of repeatedly at a given period of time, screening received e-mail messages to identify messages with a valid range including a valid geographic position range; and

a function of storing an identified message with a valid geographic position range in a message storage unit, and delivering a message which was not identified to include a valid geographic position range to a user.

22. (currently amended) A program for receiving messages which controls a computer to perform message reception processing, comprising the functions of:

a function of measuring a current geographic position of the computer;

a function of selecting, from plural e-mail messages with corresponding valid geographic position ranges, a selected message based on the selected message having a valid geographic position range for which the measured current geographic position is found to be within; and

a function of delivering the selected message to a user.

23. (currently amended) A program for receiving

messages which controls a computer to perform message reception processing, comprising the functions of:

a function of receiving e-mail messages through a network;

a function of screening messages with a valid range including a valid geographic position range from the received messages, the screening being repeatedly performed after each given period of time;

a function of storing the screened messages with a valid range in a message storage unit, and delivering a message which was not screened and does not include a valid range to a user;

a function of measuring a current geographic position of the computer;

a function of selecting, from the stored messages, a message with a valid range for which the measured current geographic position is within the valid geographic position range of the message; and

a function of delivering the selected message to a user, wherein,

at a first time when the current geographic position is determined to be outside the stored valid geographic position range of each stored message, no stored message is delivered, and

at a later second time upon the current geographic position being determined to be within one of the stored valid

geographic position ranges, the corresponding one of the stored
messages is delivered to the user.